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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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67
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-10 AID-05 /083 W
---------- 105924
R 182245Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5315
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
USCINCSO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 6860

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GT, OAS, ES
SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON OAS, FONSECA NAVAL BASE

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 17 DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO REPORTING ON RESULTS OF VENEZUELAN SUMMIT MEETING (SEPTEL, PRESIDENT LAUGERUD ALSO ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON OTHER SUBJECTS OF INTEREST.

2. HE WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORT IN SAN SALVADOR NEWSPAPER THAT US AND EL SALVADOR WERE DISCUSSING CONSTRUCTION OF US NAVAL BASE IN GULF OF FONSECA AS PART OF DEFENSE FOR NEW INTEROCEANIC CANAL UTILIZING SAN JUAN RIVER BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA. LAUGERUD SAID THAT WHILE SAN JUAN CANAL WAS OLD AND LONG-DISCUSSED IDEA, HE KNEW OF NO CURRENT DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID HE WOULD TRY AND FIND OUT WHAT TRUTH THERE WAS TO REPORT.

3. ASKED BY VISITING MEXICAN JOURNALIST WHY GUATEMALA HAD ABSTAINED AT QUITO MFM, LAUGERUD SAID
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HE HAD MADE GUATEMALA'S POSITION CLEAR IN OTHER PRESS

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CONFERENCES PRIOR TO MEETING, THAT GUATEMALA WOULD
NEITHER SPONSOR NOR OPPOSE PROPOSAL TO LIFT SANCTIONS.
GUATEMALA IS NOT INTERESTED IN RELATIONS WITH CUBA
AND FOR THAT REASON ABSTAINED AT QUITO.

4. ASKED WHETHER A LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION WOULD
REPLACE THE OAS, LAUGERUD SAID, "OUR OPINION IS THAT
THE ADVISABLE ROUTE IS TO STRENGTHEN THE OAS THROUGH
A REVISION OF ITS CHARTER."
ANDREWS

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